

fact that a number of distributorships had already been opened in Madhya Pradesh before the commencement of the reservation policy.

Opening of LPG distributorships in different parts of the country including Madhya Pradesh is a continuous process and 25% of such distributorships in Madhya Pradesh will continue to be reserved for SC/ST category.

[English]

### Brain Drain

2921. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 68 on July 28, 1997 and state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to a news-item captioned "Brain drain a cause for concern in the D.R.D.O." appearing in 'The Times of India' dated May 7, 1997;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to make coordinated efforts with other Union Ministries, Institutes of Higher and Technical Education and Industrial Houses to collect figures of Indian emigrants who have left India for ever either for jobs or higher education by the end of March, 1996; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) About 3% of total strength of scientists/engineers resigned from D.R.D.O. during last three years. While scientists/engineers in D.R.D.O. have challenging tasks, certain percentage of them have joined multinational companies for better compensation (attractive salary and perks).

(c) and (d) the Programme of Action 1992 based on National Policy on Education views the so-called brain-drain as a inevitable global phenomenon with no cause for alarm.

[Translation]

### Narmada Project

2922. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VERMA :  
SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased

to state :

(a) whether the Narmada Project is likely to be completed by 1998;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any memorandum has been received by the Union Government to change the height of Narmada Dam;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Sardar Sarovar (Narmada) Project is planned to be completed by 2000 A.D.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. There have been representations for lowering the height of Sardar Sarovar Dam. However, height of Sardar Sarovar Dam has been determined by Narmada Water Disputes Tribunal (NWDT) under its Award and the validity period of the Award is upto 2024 A.D. (45 years after Gazette Notification in 1979).)

[English]

### Majuli Island

2923. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Brahmaputra Board has prepared a Master Plan during 1996-97 to train the river system in Assam including desiltation measures;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the amount earmarked for control of erosion and flood protection during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(c) whether any specific scheme for protection of Majuli Island is proposed to be taken up during the current plan period;

(d) if so, the details of the scheme including the amount allocated in the current financial year and for the remaining period of the current Five Year Plan;

(e) whether the Government have asked any agency for hydraulic model study of Majuli Island and the Brahmaputra river system; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : (a) and (b) Brahmaputra Board prepared 4 nos. modified Master Plans during 1996-97 for Jia-Bharali, Champamati, Pagladiya and Dikrong rivers in Assam. Master Plan has suggested suitable measures for desilting.

The 9th Plan document has not been finalised by the Union Government.

(c) to (f) Brahmaputra Board has started survey and investigation for preparation of Master Plan for protection of Majuli Island. Board will also conduct a model study of Brahmaputra segment on Majuli Island for working out viable solution and formulating a specific scheme for protection of Majuli Island.

A sum of Rs. 60.65 lakh and Rs. 24.10 lakh have been provided for river modelling of the river Brahmaputra at Majuli, segment of Majuli Island and for preparation of exclusive Master Plan for the island respectively by Brahmaputra Board.

#### Conventional Methods for Water Collection

2924. SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI NAVINCHANDRA MEHTA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken or propose to take steps to revive the conventional methods for water Collection;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : (a) to (c) The National Water Policy (1987) stipulates that there should be an integrated and multi-disciplinary approach to the development and management of water resources. Thus, the present strategy in Water Resources Development and management in the country is based on a mix of options consisting of large, medium and small surface water storage, diversion and lift schemes, ground water development through deep/shallow tubewells and open wells and micro watershed development schemes besides other conventional methods of water collection. Each of the above mentioned options has its own place and a judicious mix of all these options is needed for the optimum utilisation and management of water resources in the country.

#### LPG Agency

2925. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Will the

Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of LPG agencies of various oil corporations functioning at present in the Nagpur District of Maharashtra;

(b) whether the Government have any proposal to set up more LPG agencies in the district to meet the demand of LPG in the region;

(c) whether the existing LPG agencies are not releasing more LPG connections thereby causing great difficulties to the people there; and

(d) if so, the facts and details thereof and the steps Government propose to take to open new LPG agencies there ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) to (d) The required information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

#### NH in Tripura

2926. SHRI BADAL CHOUDHURY : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any plan to upgrade any of the roads of Tripura to the status of a National Highway during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any proposal for upgradation of Agartala-Subroom road to a National Highway has been submitted by the Government of Tripura;

(d) if so, the action taken thereon; and

(e) the initiatives taken by the Union Government to make the Agartala-Churaibari portion of the NH-44, a double lane highway ?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The upgradation of Agartala-Subroom road to National Highway standard has been included in the new initiatives announced by the Prime Minister during October, 1996. The State Govt. of Tripura has entrusted this road for upgradation to Border Road Organisation and the work is in progress.

(e) The widening of Agartala-Churaibari Section of NH-44 will be taken up depending upon inter-se priority and traffic volume during the 9th Five Year Plan which is yet to be finalised.